Leominster Jan 18th 1846

Dear Mrs Chapman,

I beg your pardon for so frequently troubling you with my communications, but an incident occured at the Fair which is so really painful to my sense of justice that I cannot longer forbear laying ~~it~~ the particulars before you for your special consideration First, I would beg leave ~~to~~ to express my gratitude to you for the very cordial reception you gave the friends whom I had the pleasure of introducing to you. Miss Richardson assures me she had every attention shown her, far more than she could reasonably expect, & expresses herself in the most grateful manner for the generous hospitalities she enjoyed, at your Fathers. & here let me add, kindness was never bestowed on a more worthy person. But to the incident, on the return of my friends, judge of my surprise, on learning that Miss Blodgett had received two Liberty Bells (one from yourself, the other from your Sister Anna) & Miss Richardson none — I feel confident there must have been some mistake. Allowing me to be judge, if the books were bestowed on the score of merit, there was a sad misapplication made of them. I certainly would not wish to detract one particle of merit from my friend Miss B. who certainly is a very fine girl. & gives her entire sympathy & influence to the Anti-slavery cause. I trust I may be pardoned for saying she is not a lab*ourer* — not one cents worth of labor or means does she furnish for the fair. (She did contribute a trifle to the Bell) On the contrary Miss Richardson is one of the most faithful labourers in the field. She toils by the midnight lamp to accomplish that which she would otherwise be unable to do. she is ever at her post at our sewing circles, (if two or three may be called a circle) & in fact is

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my sole dependence in point of labour, when making up the box for the fair. (Mrs Isaac Smith is eaqually devoted, but is so situated at present as to render it impossible for her to accomplish much.)

I have thus drawn this comparison between my friends, to prove good my assertion, that the books were misapplied, if true merit was made the test. If they were presented independent of these considerations, then I beg your pardon for this interference. I have been informed, that the committee wished to present a 'Bell' to all those who took a table & if so Miss R. was entitled to one, for what few things we did send were left with her to dispose of. She would be very much pained if she knew that I had mentioned this affair to you as she is very much affraid of obtruding herself upon the notice of any one, but I have done it solely upon my own responsibility in justice to you as well as her, trusting if I have done you any wrong (or any others implicated) I shall be forgiven. I ventured to say to Miss B. that I could not account for the slight Maria had received in this matter, she said she could not, & should insist on Maria's having one of hers & offered it to her, of course Maria refused to accept it, as it was presented to Miss B. she felt it would be very wrong for her to take it, much as she would have liked it, She assured me she should by all means have purchased one if it had been in her power. But I am making a long matter of this. Again pleading for pardon if I have done wrong, I leave the subject.

I have devised a different plan from our usual custom, to accomplish a good supply of articles for the next fair. You are aware that all religious bodies claim to be very Anti-Slavery, the Unitarian church especially claims this, I am determined to test their anti-slavery zeal. I have already commenced begging funds, & am going to purchase materia and send into the 'Ladies (Unitarian) sewing circle, for them to make up, how I shall succeed remains to be seen. Had I the means, Heaven knows I would

Please remember me affectionatly to your sister Anna infinitely rather give every cent myself, than appeal to their sluggish souls. Retrenchment has been my mottoe. I feel it is impossible for me to sacrifice any more. For the last two years I have limited my personal expenditures to six dollars per year including every thing except my board. & can I do with less than this think you? It is only by this sacrifice that I am enabled to do the very trifle I do now. My Husband says he fears we shall have to give up the Liberator, as it is next to impossible for him to pay for it, but this I never will consent to do- so long as I can live on two meals a day. Indeed Friday I have dinner sufficient- for I dine on the Liberator if it would come every noon, I should never think of any other dinner. We have the satisfaction of sending the paper every week to th[illegible] of the most wealthy & influential families in to[illegible] all now they re[illegible] with considerable interest. Of course they are not prep[illegible] to subscribe for it yet. I am so affraid of frightning away the [illegible] interest they feel- that I donot dare to hint to them a wish for their subscription, you will not wonder at this, when I tell you that two years since, I couldnot get two of these famlies to even look at the paper by any means whatever. I feel very much encouraged in view of these things. & another thing bids fair to aid the cause among the Christian Unitarians is this, they have now got a man for a teacher, by the name of Hiram Withington. I should judge he was as true as a clergyman can well be. I have never heard him in public, but have repeatedly called on him. he assures me the Am + Mass Society have his sympathy- I wouldnot write all these things, did I not think you would rejoice with me, in these brighter prospects. I feel it is wrong for me to trespass on your precious time when you have so many more important duties to attend to. I trust I shall have a line from you if you ever find a leisure moment. I have read this over and find it doesnot amount to much after all. dont know as I shall ever learn to say what I wish to, in a even some few words. F. H. Drake

Please remember me affectionatly to your Sister Anna

1846

Ms. A.9.2.22.8

Sandwich M
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Mrs Maria W. Chapman
25 Cornhill
Boston
Mass

I break this seal to beg of you to correct the statement in the report of the fair, that I contributed four dollars to the Bell. I gave a portion of it, by no means all of it, I think I stated to you that it was collected. I trust you will make the correction next week in the Liberator in justice to me. I fear I shall never be able to get as much from these friends again unless it is done, as some have already said I get all the credit of what is done. Please lay this aside till you have leisure as there is nothing urgent or particular in it, I mean that needs special attention now.